(c) if not, whether Government propose to take any further measures in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) Super Bazar, the Cooperative Stores Ltd., registered under the Delhi Cooperative Societies Act is managed by the Managing Committee, constituted under the Act, rules and bye-laws framed thereunder. This Ministry has not received any proposal regarding the welfare schemes for Super Bazar labourers during the last three years, Super Bazar has its own rules and regulations for the welfare of its employees.

Shortage of edible oils

5042. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a shortage of 7 lakh tonnes of edible oil is predicted in the country this year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a slight delay in releasing the edible oils from the Government godowns is likely to cause hardships to the consumers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that shortage of edible oil in the market and its price showing an upward swing are clearly visible; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated to meet the situation in the interest of the public?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) It is estimated that during the oil year (Nov.-Oct.) 1994-95 the net availability of edible oils from all domestic sources would be 64.0 lakh tonnes as against the total requirement estimated to be 69.8 lakh tonns.

(b) Imported edible oil is made available to States/UTs on the basis of availability of stocks in the Central Food and demand received from the State Governments/UT Administrations. Central Government has not received any report regarding delay in release of imported edible oils from the stocks available in delivery depots of the State Trading Corporation.

(c) During the period 25-2-95 to 15-4-95 a stable or marginally declining trend has generally been observed in the price levels of various edible oils.

(d) The State Trading Corporation of India has been authorised to import 1.5 lakh tonnes of RBD Palmolein during the current financial year 1995-96 for the PDS. Import of edible oils with the exception of Coconut Oil, Palm Kernel Oil, RBD Palm Oil and RBD Palm Stearin have been brought under the Open General Licence and the import duty on edible oils reduced to 30 per cent from the previous level of 65 per cent. The National Dairy Development Board has also been authorised to import 3.0 lakh tonnes of edible oils from 1994-95 onwards to augment net availability in the Country.

High Price of Desi Ghee

5043. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of desi ghee in Delhi has risen very high;

(b) if so, what were the prices of this commodity in each of the last twelve months;

(c) the reason for abnormal increase in the price of ghee; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to bring down the price?